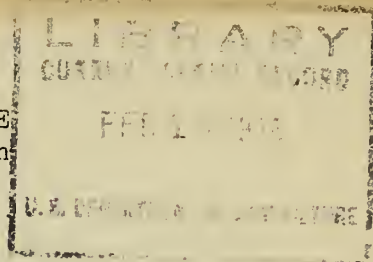


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Marketing Facilities Branch



February 1948

States of Origin for Estimated Major Movements of
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables During the Month of February 1948

Refrigerator carloadings of all perishables are heavy and the car situation is tight in some areas. The Association of American Railroads reports that during the past week, principally due to severe weather conditions, there was some shortage in the Red River Valley and the midwestern States, but that in Maine the supply was adequate with sufficient cars in that State to take care of commercial loading and the export movement through Searsport. Because of rain and cold weather in Texas, loadings in the Rio Grande Valley were slowed down and the carriers were able to build up a satisfactory supply of empty refrigerator cars in that area. The situation on the West Coast is getting tighter and unless weather conditions improve enough to allow an increased movement of empty refrigerator cars from the East, a serious shortage may result in California, the Pacific Northwest, Arizona and the Red River Valley.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that while the recent freeze in Florida caused considerable damage to the vegetable crop, the over-all loss was not as great as would ordinarily be expected from a cold wave of such wide range and intensity. During this period there were very low temperatures over the entire State. Strawberries received a severe setback and will be delayed from four to six weeks. Some of the other crops were reported to be suffering minor damage from the cold but this was not extensive. The cold rainy weather in Texas, while it slowed down the loading, was really beneficial to the refrigerator car situation in that section of the country. As explained above, it allowed an accumulation of much needed cars in this area where, if the weather had been favorable to loading, there might have been a shortage.

As in January of this year, potatoes from Maine will prove the heaviest single crop of all the fruit and vegetable crops to move from any State during this month. Among the others moving in heavy volume will be potatoes and apples from the Pacific Northwest; lettuce, oranges, cauliflower, carrots, celery and lemons from the South Pacific; potatoes from the Rocky Mountain region; potatoes from the North Central region; sweetpotatoes from Louisiana; potatoes from the Middle Atlantic region; oranges, celery, grapefruit, potatoes and mixed vegetables from Florida; and grapefruit, cabbage, mixed vegetables and carrots from Texas. Many of these crops will continue to move in volume for the next few months.

Our estimates indicate that approximately 74,182 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables will move during February 1948 compared with 71,492 carloads estimated to have moved during January 1948, an increase of 3.8 percent. The estimated loadings for February 1948 show an increase of 5 percent when compared with 70,676 carloads shipped during February 1947.

The principal carloadings as estimated to move during February 1948 are listed below by commodity, region and State of origin.

North Pacific Region

It is estimated that the crop loadings from this area will be very heavy - 11,054 refrigerator carloads originating in this area during February 1948. Those moving in greatest volume will be:

Commodity	Estimated Carloads		
	Idaho	Oregon	Washington
Potatoes	4,000	1,000	260
Apples	10	300	4,500
Onions	200	250	15
Pears	-	425	25

South Pacific Region

It is estimated that 18,381 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables will originate in this region during February 1948. Those moving in greatest volume will be:

Commodity	Estimated Carloads		
	California	Arizona	Nevada
Lettuce & Romaine	4,500	1,500	-
Oranges & Satsumas	4,000	50	-
Cauliflower	2,000	30	-
Carrots	800	250	-
Celery	800	200	-
Lemons	800	5	-
Potatoes	650	3	50
Broccoli	310	45	-
Cabbage	300	-	-
Grapefruit	30	135	-
Grapes	125	-	-
Greens	100	-	-
Peas, green	100	-	-

Rocky Mountain Region

It is estimated that 2,929 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables will originate in this region during February 1948. Those moving in greatest volume will be:

Commodity	Estimated Carloads			
	Colorado	Wyoming	Montana	Utah
Potatoes	2,000	250	150	130
Onions	350	-	-	40

North Central Region

It is estimated that this region will originate 4,866 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables of which 4,785 carloads will be potatoes.

Commodity	Estimated Carloads		
	Nebraska	North Dakota	Minnesota
Potatoes	2,000	1,500	1,200

Southwestern Region (excluding Texas)

The Southwestern region will probably originate 873 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables. The principal crop here will be sweetpotatoes from Louisiana. It is estimated that 800 carloads will originate in this State.

Great Lakes Region

This region will originate approximately 1,063 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables during February 1948. Those moving in greatest volume will be:

Commodity	Estimated Carloads	
	Wisconsin	Michigan
Potatoes	200	250
Onions	85	400

New England Region

It is estimated that this region will originate approximately 8,728 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables during February 1948. The only commodity moving in volume will be potatoes - Maine will originate 8,500 carloads of these, Connecticut 150 carloads and Massachusetts 50 carloads.

Middle Atlantic Region

Here too, the principal crop will be potatoes - approximately 1,703 carloads out of a total of 2,850 carloads of all fresh fruits and vegetables estimated to move this month. Commodities moving in the greatest volume will be:

Commodity	Estimated Carloads		
	New York	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Potatoes	1,600	100	-
Onions	450	-	-
Cabbage	300	-	-
Carrots	100	-	-
Apples	80	60	80

Southern Region
(excluding Florida)

It is expected that only 459 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables will originate in this area during February 1948.

Commodity	Estimated Carloads	
	Virginia	Georgia
Apples	150	-
Greens (except spinach)	150	30

In addition there will probably be 50 cars of sweetpotatoes from South Carolina and 40 cars from North Carolina.

Florida and Texas

It is estimated that Florida will ship 9,746 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables this month and that Texas will originate 13,234 carloads. Those moving in greatest volume will be:

Commodity	Estimated Carloads	
	Florida	Texas
Oranges & Satsumas	4,500	650
Celery	1,250	-
Grapefruit	1,100	3,200
Mixed citrus fruit	1,100	700
Potatoes	703	-
Mixed vegetables	350	2,000
Beans, snap or lima	175	-
Cabbage	150	5,000
Tomatoes	150	-
Tangerines	140	-
Carrots	10	800
Spinach	-	600
Sweetpotatoes	-	125

